



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

REGION I

J. F. KENNEDY FEDERAL BUILDING, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02203

September 16, 1982

Dr. William Foege
Director, Centers for Disease
Control
1600 Clifton Road
Atlanta, GA 30333

Superfund Records Center

SITE: New Bedford

BREAK: 3.01

OTHER: 46928

Dear Dr. Foege:

On August 10, 1982, Dr. Gerald Parker, Assistant Commissioner, Department of Public Health, Commonwealth of Massachusetts, transmitted a proposal for health studies for the greater New Bedford area for possible adverse health effects from PCB exposure. The New Bedford area was declared eligible for Superfund assistance on July 23, 1982. The site includes the harbor, portions of Buzzards Bay, New Bedford landfill, and an abandoned dump called Sullivan's Ledge. The sources of the PCB contamination were two capacitor manufacturers. The mechanisms of transport to the environment include direct discharges, indirect discharges to the New Bedford sewage treatment plant (STP), incineration of contaminated sludge at the STP, land disposal, incineration of contaminated waste oils at the manufacturers, and fugitive emissions from all locations.

I have attached a recent memo from me to Bill Hedeman of our Headquarters office which outlines the Region's proposed strategy for New Bedford. It is my understanding that, if CDC determines that a health study is necessary, the CDC will enter into the cooperative agreement with the state Department of Public Health. A copy of the proposal was given to Georgie Jones of your staff when she visited the Region on August 23.

John Figler of the CDC Superfund implementation group was recently assigned to my office and will serve as our contact for information and coordination with respect to these studies. We look forward to working with CDC on this study and any future health studies which may be performed in the Region. I am especially pleased to have John Figler assigned to the Region. I am sure that this new close working relationship with CDC will greatly enhance our ability to respond to the Superfund sites.

Any questions you or your staff may have concerning the New Bedford area should be addressed to Gerard Sotolongo, the EPA project manager, at 617/223-5775 or to John Figler at 617/223-1591.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Merrill S. Hohman", with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Merrill S. Hohman
Director, Waste Management Division

Attachment: As noted

cc: John Hackler
Gerry Levy
Dick Chalpin
Gerard Parker
Maryann Froelich